

We Have Not Yet Sold Out To The Metric System

Him being a math professor
& her being a whirling dervish
you can see why it's coming
unravelling after 10 years,
but he's not as cut & dry as she
described him & she's not as
big a pile of sentiment as he'd
like to think. I know because of
the way she suffers her own
impression on people & the way he
got so excited talking about
number systems, systems of 10 & 12
& 20, Egyptians & Babylonians
& the Renaissance Man,
slamming his fist into his palm
& exclaiming,
"We have not yet sold out to the
metric system!"
& the puzzled look on her face
across the room.

A Death In The Family

The boy is 18 & sits in the
room all day playing records
& smoking dope.

His mother comes home from work,
pauses in the foyer,
hears the music coming
from his music upstairs.

She puts down her packages
on the hallway table
& goes up the steps,
taking off her gloves
as she does. She is wearing
stockings & heels & her
cheeks are red from the
fresh air. Her husband has been
dead six years.